

MINUTES OF THE BLACK UNITED FRONT

MARCH 19, 1968

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by the Chairman, Stokely Carmichael.

The Chairman introduced Convener Charles Jones as the first speaker. Mr. Jones stated, "The temporary Board of Conveners determined membership into the Front on the basis of the "Statement of Purpose" (See 2/13/68 Minutes, Page 1, paragraph 3). Pursuant to that purpose we determined membership to be individuals who believe and subscribe to that Statement. Such individuals will join on the basis of a \$2 membership fee. Organizations will join on the basis of subscribing to same and the payment of \$10 for membership." He indicated that all, including those who have been active in the Black United Front up to this time, must complete an Application for Membership in the Black United Front, BUF Form #0685, and submit payment accordingly.

In explaining the voting procedure Mr. Jones indicated that organizations will vote through their official representatives in the Front. Each organization has one vote; however, the status of an organization has more weight than an individual. Each member of each organization, aside from the official representative, must join the Front individually.

Regarding the matter of the news media Mr. Jones said, "If you join as an individual but are representing the press, we must insist that you make that fact known to the Front.

The next scheduled order of business was Rev. David Eaton's report on the Board of Conveners meeting held Thursday, March 7, 1968; however, due to the absence of Rev. Eaton, the report was presented by Mr. Chuck Stone. Mr. Stone listed five recommendations as resulting from the meeting.

Discussion on the recommendations was conducted by Mr. Carmichael. The first recommendation presented to the Body of the Front was:

It be recommended to the Body of the Black United Front that they support Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy's right to be an active member of the Front while serving on the City Council of the District of Columbia, and pledge further support to Rev. Fauntroy should the need arise.

The recommendation as presented was unanimously adopted.

Secondly, it was recommended that Mr. Charles Jones be appointed temporary financial custodian. After discussion it was moved by Mr. Kenneth C. Kennedy, seconded, and adopted that Mr. Charles Jones be appointed permanent Financial Secretary for the Black United Front.

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...the fact is that you make that fact known

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...David ... report to the board of directors
...March 7, 1950, ...
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The third recommendation was the establishment of an Arbitration Council to mediate disputes arising within the Black community. Mr. Carmichael stated, "This recommendation arrives specifically around the 'Marion Barry -- Rufus 'Catfish'' dispute. One of the things the Black United Front would hope to be able to do would be to set up an Arbitration Council to eliminate such disputes before they become physical." He indicated that the Council must be able to do more than just ask the individuals not to fight -- it must be able to stop them.

A member stated, "We need this type of Council. I believe we should get a Council of elders. I would hope that this group would move to illustrate to the community that we can move very swiftly to stop such events when they occur."

In further discussing the recommendation Mr. Carmichael stated, "If, in fact, we do establish an Arbitration Council, we must realize that this Council must have some guns or some type of power behind it."

A member queried, "What type of force would you suggest. . . .Are you saying we should use the same force to separate such individuals as Marion and 'Catfish' as the white man would use to separate us?"

In answer Mr. Carmichael said, "We need enough force to stop whatever is occurring. If that means the same force the white man would use in separating us, the answer is yes."

Another question was, "What type of qualifications must the members of the police force have?"

Mr. Carmichael answered, "First we must decide whether we will have one. After that decision is reached we will set down the qualifications."

Another remark was, "I am very concerned with the idea of using guns in enforcing any type of dispute among Blacks. A Council of elders is a good thing but what has brought us together these past meetings was our understanding of who the enemy is. I cannot see using guns on our people. Guns are to be used on the white man and no place else. If we can't settle our disputes without guns then we're lost."

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Kennedy and seconded it was resolved that:

The Black United Front approves the idea of establishing a Council for Arbitration, of the nature so described, and that a committee be named here tonight to meet and work out the details of implementing such a Council and return at a later date to present their plans for implementation to the Body of the Black United Front for approval.

The following temporary volunteer committee was established Tuesday, March 19, 1968, to work out the details for implementing an Arbitration Council.

COMMITTEE ON THE ARBITRATION COUNCIL*

1. Marion Barry. 483-1900-Wrk.
2. Charles DeBose. 332-0023
3. Winky Hall. 387-7445
4. Rev. Douglas Moore. 382-7434-Wrk.
5. James Moore 270-3149-Hm.
6. Mary Moore. 583-4326
7. Roena Rand. 396-9368
8. Robert Sneed. 581-9175
9. Dee Williams.

3763 Jay Street, N.E. #6

*The Committee on the Arbitration Council was asked to meet no later than April 7, 1968, draw up the plans for implementation, and submit same to the Acting Secretary, Lulu R. Stroud (no later than Monday, April 8, 1968).

3/19/68

Next was the discussion on the fourth recommendation; namely, that in order to become a member of the Board of Conveners such individual should be a representative from an organization and that such representative on the Board be approved by 2/3 of the Body of the Front. The exchanges of dialogue which followed included:

"Let us bear in mind that we have individuals who are not members of any organizations. Are we saying that in order to be a Convener one must be a member of an organization? If so, I disagree wholeheartedly." (CRolark)

"The recommendation coming from the Board of Conveners meeting was that 2/3 of the Conveners be representatives of organizations and 1/3 be individuals. I think we need to pay some attention to the 2/3 -- 1/3 thing. We must protect ourselves against setting up a Board of Conveners that does not have a constituency." (Rev. Phillips)

"My thinking was that the Board of Conveners came out with the belief that the Body was able to decide on the people it wanted, therefore, we would not necessarily be restricted to the 2/3 thing. . . .I think we are hung up in the thought that just because a person is a head of an organization, he has to be a head here." (CJones)

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Charles Jones,
seconded, and adopted it was resolved that:

The Board of Conveners of the
Black United Front be elected by the
membership from among its members.

The fifth recommendation, which was unanimously
adopted by the Body of the Black United Front, was that
persons wishing to present proposals to the general Body
submit their requests to the Acting Secretary, Lulu R. Stroud
for inclusion on the agenda.

Mr. Stone stated the "Statement of Purpose",
"Standards for Qualification", "Procedure to Follow", and
the two public stands the Front has taken (See Memo No. 8
of 2/14/68).

A member moved to amend the "Statement of
Purpose" to read, ". . .in order to obtain control of the
decision making councils of the District, and control
of the economic institutions in the Black community."
The motion was defeated, and the "Statement of Purpose"
was agreed to as stated (See 2/13/68 Minutes, Page 1,
paragraph 3).

Mr. Carmichael stated, "Now we must establish
a permanent structure for the Board of Conveners."

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Upon arrival at the airport, the
author and his wife were met by
a group of men in military uniforms
and were taken to a building where
they were held for several days.

The men who met them at the airport
were all of Chinese descent and
they spoke English. They told them
that they were from the United States
and that they had been captured by
the Chinese.

They were then taken to a building
where they were held for several days.
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and that they had been captured by
the Chinese.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Calvin Rolark, seconded, and unanimously passed it was resolved that:

The terms of office for the members of the Board of Conveners of the Black United Front be one year.

As a point of clarification Mr. Carmichael stated that the Body of the Front could reelect any or all of the Conveners after the one-year terms if they so chose.

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and adopted it was agreed to retain 15 of the 16 members of the temporary Board of Conveners and add to it to make the permanent 21-member Board.

The following individuals elected by the Body
of the Black United Front on Tuesday, March 19, 1968,
constitute the permanent Board of Conveners:

BOARD OF CONVENERS*

1. Louise Barrow
2. Marion Barry
3. Reginald H. Booker
4. Marshall Brown
5. Stokely Carmichael
6. Charles Cassell
7. Rev. David Eaton
8. Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy
9. Willie Hardy
10. Jean Hughes
11. Charles Jones
12. Doug Jones
13. Herb Kelsey
14. Kenneth C. Kennedy
15. Robert Nelson
16. Rev. Channing E. Phillips
17. Rev. Jefferson Rogers
18. Calvin Rolark
19. Chuck Stone
20. Sterling Tucker
21. Mildred Walker

*Effective 3/19/68 to 3/20/69.

RECEIVED

B L A C K U N I T E D F R O N T

P. O. Box 3374
Columbia Heights Station
Washington, D. C.

Secretary
583-2581

January 22, 1969

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE

TO: Black United Front

FROM: Stokely Carmichael *Stokely*
Chairman

SUBJECT: Black United Front Meeting Scheduled
Wednesday, February 5, 1969

The regular meeting of the Black United Front will be held at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 5, 1969 at Douglas Memorial Church located at 11th and "H" Streets, N.E., Washington, D. C.

The agenda will include:

- (1) Taped Message to the Front* Stokely Carmichael
- (2) Board's Recommendation of an Organizational Structure for the Front and Establishing Working Committees Marion Barry
Clifton McCleary
Chuck Stone

The entire Black public is invited to this meeting! Please plan to arrive on time as the meeting will begin as promptly as possible. And, be sure to bring your Membership Cards with you for voting purposes.

*Approximate time of tape is 45 minutes.

THE BLACK UNITED FRONT
OF
WASHINGTON, D. C.

For Immediate Release

August 10, 1968

BUF Calls for Referendum
on D. C. Gun-Congrol Legislation;
Raps White Suburbs' Right to Arm

The Black United Front declares that D. C. gun-control legislation is a white-racist means of taking away from Black people an instrument of self-defense. This is proved by the fact that 68%-Black Washington, D. C. has gun-control legislation while the surrounding 95%-white suburbs with no similar gun-control legislation are actively being urged to arm and are arming.

Because of this racist inequity that once again deprives Black people of the right to self-defense while ignoring the non-right of white people to an organized offense, the Black United Front declares:

(1) That the Black people of D. C. let their Black consciousness be their guide in the self-protection of Black families and Black neighborhoods against the violence of white racism, and

(2) That a referendum be initiated immediately in this city to repeal gun-control legislation and that the city wait until such time the United States Congress passes and enforces legislation which controls whites as well as Blacks.

What we do reject is SCLC's refusal to accept its responsibility and the consequences for its actions as they affect the total black community. Honkie cops didn't go down against SCLC. They went down against the entire black community of Washington, D.C.

D.C. black mothers and black children were tear-gassed for only one reason -- they were black.

A curfew was slapped on the D.C. black community. We say the black community because only black people were arrested. Whites were permitted to pass unmolested by white cops.

2) It is a fact that SCLC failed to honor the commitment made by our late and beloved brother, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., to involve the D.C. black community in its planning and to keep D.C. black people abreast of its plans --- step by step.

This was not done. The black community of D.C. was totally ignored. Instead, whites took over many of the key operations of SCLC's program.

3) It is a fact that the Black United Front, out of its deep respect for Rev. King, initiated the meeting with SCLC, not necessarily to participate but to establish communication between the D.C. black community and SCLC.

SCLC then chose to totally disregard the D.C. black community.

4) It is a fact that the so-called "Solidarity Day" was a white-conceived exercise to divide the black community. District all-black organizations were not invited to participate in the "Solidarity Day" program.

The Black United Front does not suggest that District black people would have participated in larger numbers. But they were not even asked.

We ask: How can any "Solidarity Day" be a reality when any segment of BLACK PEOPLE is deliberately excluded?

The Black United Front reaffirms its first loyalty to the black community.

Black people must not be crushed by honkie racism, whether it comes in the form of honkie police brutality

or misguided whites attempting to program the progress of black people by subverting our organizations.

The Black United front realizes that SCLC's actions allowed the honkie cops to take the offensive against the entire black community.

Because of the actions of less than 200 people connected with SCLC's program, the entire black community was placed "up tight". D.C.'s 500,000 black people themselves did nothing to bring on the curfew. In April, following our beloved brother's assassination, the total black community ran it down against white racism. We accepted our responsibility and the consequences for our actions because what was done was done in the name of blackness.

The Black United Front hereby serves notice on ALL organizations throughout the country that no organization - black, white or inter-racial - is going to come into this city, program a protest and then expect D.C. black people to sit back and get put in a white racist trick bag.

Unless such organizations are prepared to join with D.C. black people in helping to build a strong and viable black community, then we sternly warn against further protests which do not involve the Black United Front.

Toward this end, the Black United Front invites its black brothers and sisters in SCLC to join with us in achieving the kind of black community that will stand as a lasting shrine to the power of blackness and the integrity of black unity.

Our hands are extended. Our hearts are open to our black brothers and sisters in SCLC to meet with the Black United Front within the next week at a time and place of their own choosing.

We await their decision in the name of black unity and black progress.

(Passed unanimously on June 25, 1968, at a meeting of the Board of Conveners of the Black United Front.)

A WTOP EDITORIAL

BROADCAST HOUSE WASHINGTON, D.C. 244-5678

A reasonable opportunity is afforded to responsible spokesmen for presentation of views contrasting with those broadcast in WTOP Editorials. Persons desiring to do so must make request within five days of broadcast. WTOP reserves the right both to designate the spokesman and to deny such requests if, in its judgment, substantially the same viewpoints have been or are being fairly presented.

POST-NEWSWEEK STATIONS, CAPITAL AREA, INC.

(This Editorial was broadcast on January 12 and 13, 1968, over WTOP Radio & Television).

This is a WTOP Editorial.

The effort by Stokley Carmichael to bring a wide range of Negro organizations together into one confederation is an interesting and in some ways disturbing phenomenon.

Here is a sizable group of Washington's Negro leaders representing a very wide range of opinions and viewpoints. They are summoned by Carmichael to a unity conference. They attend, despite Carmichael's well-deserved reputation for acute extremism. They are scheduled to meet again--or at least their representatives are--to attempt to form a Black United Front whose principal purpose seems to be mutual self-support.

The glue that will hold the Front together--if it actually comes into being--is color: the color of the skins of those involved. This would be a racist organization in the sense that it would be an effort to bring many Negro organizations into a coalition.

Coalitions are not at all unusual among groups with a common purpose. What is unusual about the proposed United Black Front is the wide diversity of the proposed membership. That, and Stokley Carmichael's role in trying to put it together. Carmichael has said some very harsh, violent and bitter things about the state of race relations. His influence here isn't anything to be happy about.

No one can deny the right of Negroes to band together to achieve the social, economic and political gains they deserve. Indeed unity is one of the most effective weapons of Negroes.

But it's to be hoped that Negro unity doesn't result in a virulently racist outlook. There's enough of that in America already.

What this country needs to solve the race crisis--which is the most profound of all the domestic crises we now confront--is understanding, not a confrontation along the color line. We'd feel a lot better about the Black United Front if the word "black" weren't so prominent--and if Carmichael weren't the moving force.

This was a WTOP Editorial, Jack Jurey speaking for WTOP.

WTOP EDITORIAL

CAST HOUSE WASHINGTON, D.C. 244-5678 POST-NEWSWEEK STATIONS, A Division of the Washington Post Company

THE BLACK UNITED FRONT

(This Editorial was broadcast July 24 and 25, 1968, over WTOP Radio and Television.)

This is a WTOP Editorial.

On Tuesday evening the Black United Front conducted what was supposed to be the first public hearing on the general subject of police-community relations. The meeting was held in the John Wesley National A.M.E. Zion Church.

WTOP, WRC, and the CBS Washington News Bureau attempted to cover the event with cameras and recorders. Unfortunately, not long after proceedings began, members of a militant group ordered the TV crews out, together with all white persons in the audience.

The television crews and other unwelcome guests departed amid a barrage of various uncomplimentary and threatening statements.

From WTOP's standpoint, this is really very unfortunate. It isn't just that our cameras were ordered removed--we've been ordered out of places before.

But it's just plain too bad that this community has reached a point where--at least in the Tuesday night episode--antagonism is replacing common sense.

The Black United Front is, supposedly, an attempt to amalgamate the views of leaders of the Negro community on some of the problems of our city. Although the Front has said some things that many people don't agree with, that doesn't mean it shouldn't be listened to. We happen to believe, for example, that a dialogue concerning police relationships with the community at large could be helpful--which is one of the reasons WTOP News attempted to cover the Tuesday night meeting.

However, we're not going to have a dialogue in this city if we let racism--white or black--flourish, or if words like "honky" and "nigger" become more a part of the community vocabulary than they already are.

Violence in language or action very rarely settles anything and very frequently makes problems worse.

Washington, D. C., has problems, sure enough. It would be far better if everyone resolved to approach them with at least a modicum of goodwill, good judgment, and common courtesy.

This was a WTOP Editorial.....Jack Jurey speaking for WTOP.

TO: All members of the Black United Front

FROM: The Black United Front

DATE: April 23, 1968

RE: MEETING

The Black United Front, in addressing itself to the destiny of the "rebuilding" of the Black communities, is calling a special meeting at which time we are inviting approximately seventy (70) individuals.

These individuals or representatives from groups all have proposals concerning the "rebuilding" and are scheduled to appear before the City Council for presentation, consideration and possible funding.

The meeting that the Front calls has special significance because it knows that the Black people living in the Black communities want to decide what will happen to, as well as what goes on, in their communities. In order to insure that this will, in fact, be the case with the "rebuilding", the Front is requesting that these seventy (70) people meet with our body.

There may be some members on the Front who may have other ideas and/or programs and our purpose is to come up with one, just one (1), proposal. This will be an all encompassing, comprehensive, fully-endorsed program, that addresses itself to, and provides solutions for, the involvement of the TOTAL Black communities.

Since the Black United Front represents all segments of the Black communities, total involvement would necessarily mean 100% representation. Please make a notation on your calendar of the following time and place:

Tuesday, April 30, 1968, 8:00p.m.
The New School of Afro-American Thought
2115 - 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20009

1800 1000 500 0

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June 18, 1968

MEMORANDUM NO. 32

TO: Black United Front

FROM: *Lulu R. Stroud*
Lulu R. Stroud
Acting Secretary

SUBJECT: Regular Meeting Day for the Black United Front

All future meetings of the Black United Front will be held the first Wednesday in each month at 8:00 p.m.

We are in the process of establishing a telephoning committee to call those individuals on file to inform them of the place and remind them of the time and date for each meeting. If you have any qualms about your number(s) being given out to this committee, please telephone either the Co-Chairman/Financial Secretary, Charles Jones, at 387-6955, or the Acting Secretary, Lulu R. Stroud, at 583-2581. If we do not hear from you, we will assume we have your approval and act accordingly.

At present, we are establishing a Membership listing, and would appreciate your filling out the enclosed "Individual Membership Application" form. In the very near future we will be issuing Membership Cards.

The next meeting of the Black United Front is scheduled for 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 3, 1968, at Douglas Memorial Methodist Church located at 11th and "H" Streets, N.E.

Please plan to arrive on time.

Enclosure:

1. Individual Membership Application form

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make it.
Lulu

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BLACK UNITED FRONT

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Black United Front is hereby established for the purpose of expanding the lines of communication between, and effecting togetherness among, all the Black people in the District of Columbia in order to obtain a rightful and proportionate share in the decision making councils of the District, and rightful and proportionate control of the economic institutions in the Black community.

STANDARDS FOR QUALIFICATION

1. Any Black individual who has concern and interest in the Black community.
2. Any organization whose primary involvement is for the benefit of Black people, as outlined in the "Statement of Purpose", provided it has at least a 50% Black constituency and its representative in the Front is Black.

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW

Any organization wishing to join the Black United Front must first petition the Board of Conveners. The Board will then make an assessment of the organization and recommend to the Body of the Front that it be accepted or rejected. If the Conveners recommend to the Body that the organization be accepted, by a majority vote the organization is admitted. Should the Conveners, however, recommend that the organization not be accepted, the organization can then petition directly to the Body of the Black United Front and be accepted by a 2/3 vote.

POSITION OF THE FRONT AND CONDUCT OF THE MEMBERS

Only when there is a unanimous vote by the Board of Conveners and on the floor of the Black United Front does the Front, in any shape or form, take a public position on any issue. Failing a unanimous vote, if it is possible to get a majority vote, then the Front will recommend to the constituencies that they work in that direction; and if the majority vote is what prevails, then those other individuals and/or organizations that disagree with the recommendation

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ls:SC

*Organizational Application
forms will be available
at the meeting.*

BLACK UNITED FRONT: P.O. Box 3374
Columbia Heights Station
Washington, D. C.

Secretary:
Phone: 563-2581

December 27, 1968

MEMORANDUM

TO: Black United Front

FROM: *Stokely Carmichael*
Stokely Carmichael
Chairman

SUBJECT: First Anniversary Meeting of the Black United Front
Scheduled Wednesday, January 8, 1969

The First Anniversary Meeting of the Black United Front will be held at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 8, 1969 at Lincoln Temple located at 1701 - 11th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Those attending the subject meeting will be given the opportunity to question the Board of Conveners as well as discuss the Front's past, present, and future. Ideas from the Body for short-range and long-range goals during the Front's second year will be entertained.

It is suggested that any Black individual with questions and ideas relating to the Front attend this First Annual Meeting along with the regular Members of the Front.

Hopefully, the entire 21-member Board of Conveners will be in attendance.

Board of Conveners

Barry, Marion*
Booker, Reginald H.*
Brown, Cornelius E. (III)
Brown, Marshall*
Carmichael, Stokely*
Cassell, Charles*
Eaton, David (Rev.)*
Fauntroy, Walter E. (Rev.)*
Hardy, Willie*
Hughes, Jean (KoKo)*
Jones, Doug*

Kennedy, Kenneth C.*
Malson, Robert*
McCleary, Clifton
Moore, Douglas (Rev.)
Murphy, Ed
Phillips, Channing E. (Rev.)*
Rand, Roena
Rolark, Calvin*
Stone, Chuck*
Tucker, Sterling*

*Terms expire 3/19/69

BLACK UNITED FRONT

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July 15, 1968

TO: Barry, Marion
Brown, Marshall
Carmichael, Stokely
Eaton, David (Rev.)
Fauntroy, Walter E. (Rev.)
Hardy, Willie
Harper, James W.
Robson, Julius ✓
Jones, Doug
Kennedy, Kenneth C.
Phillips, Channing A. (Rev.)
Porter, James Oran (Esq.)
Rand, Boena
Rogers, Jefferson P. (Rev.)
Solark, Calvin
Spears, Carlos L.
Stone, Chuck
Tucker, Sterling
Weaver, C. T.

FROM:

Lulu H. Stroud
360 - 50th Street, S.E., #5
Washington, D. C. 20019

SUBJECT: The "Justifiable Homicide" Resolution of the Black United Front - Unanimously Adopted at July 3, 1968 Meeting

It is easy enough for one to criticize the police force, however, criticism without a program for change does the Black community no good.

I request that you read the enclosed material and comment accordingly. Make whatever changes you feel necessary. The plan I have enclosed isn't meant to be complete, I merely roughed out ideas as they came to me and I assume you will do the same.

I think it would be a good idea if the Black United Front were to submit the plan once it has been completed. What do you think? Whatever comes out must be serious and comprehensive.

I am merely throwing the idea out -- hope someone will show enough concern in bringing about change to call a meeting of the above individuals. In the alternative, anyone wishing can mail their ideas to me.

Enclosure
as stated

As a result of the recent attention given to the numerous cases of police brutality and neglect, which has been given national focus, a District Police Complaint Clearinghouse should be established. This Clearinghouse should be operated by individuals living within the inner city of Washington. The Board of Directors of this House should include minority race members and representatives of the areas to be served. This Clearinghouse should work in close unison with the Board of Conveners of the Black United Front as well as every other individual within the Black community. It should be recognized by not only the Black community but also the Police Department and the District Government Agencies -- although it should be an independent Clearinghouse. Of course, there would have to be a working relationship between the Neighborhood Legal Services Program, Legal Aid Agencies, Urban League, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and so forth.

The Police Complaint Clearinghouse would operate in the following manner:

1. Initially, it would be necessary to disseminate throughout the Black community information pertaining to the Clearinghouse. This would be done through distributing literature channeled through the various organizations, etc. There would be advertisement on all radio stations serving the Black community, on all TV Channels, and in all Black newspapers as well as the

Washington Post, Evening Star and Daily News. And, most important would be communication **through** word of mouth -- your most effective means.

I would suggest that the Clearinghouse begin where we are now and not get tied down in investigating back cases because of the multitude of same and the basic reality that taking cases from this point on will keep it extremely busy.

2. A Complaint Form should be filled out by every individual making a complaint. All information pertaining to each case will be kept confidential unless written authorization has been received from the individual or organization complaining to make the information available. Again, no release of information will be given unless written authorization~~is~~ received. Note. There should be a Authorization Release Form. This form should have a space for the complaining individual to indicate who the information is to be released to (certain individuals or organizations, or anyone requesting).

3. A second and third Complaint Form should be available. This is because the individual will think of further information relating to the incident as time goes by. At which times he should fill out a Supplemental Form and take it to the location of the Clearinghouse (if he prefers, he could mail it in). At such time, if he requests, he should be given a run-down on the disposition of his complaint thus far.

4. There should be an Investigation Form. This form should be filled out by the individual making the investigation. The form should indicate who was interviewed regarding the case. The stories received and whether or not they vary. What the final

result of the stories was. The individual making the investigation's own conclusions. The badge No., name, address, phone number, precinct No., and story of the policeman or policemen involved. And, if the investigator feels so inclined, he should make his own suggestions of what to do with the complaint next if it has not been resolved.

5. Once all of this information is collected, a form for Disposition of the complaint should be thoroughly filled out. This form should give briefly the nature of the complaint. Next, it should indicate ~~what~~ the steps were in arriving at this point. It should then indicate what the final result was. And, last should be an indication whether the case was resolved and if not, it should be indicated what the next step will be (what action is necessary in the future, who the case should be referred to -- possibly an attorney with the Legal Services Program or Legal Aid). There should also be a follow-up on the case once it is turned over to another agency to see that it is resolved.

6. The Clearinghouse should be operated from around 11:00 a.m. or 12:00 noon till 8:00 p.m. This will allow time for an individual with a complaint to go in to the Clearinghouse after working hours or during a lunch hour.

7. The home phone numbers of those individuals directly involved in the Clearinghouse should be made public. These four or five individuals should all have a phone line put in at their homes so as to allow for the calls on a open line. In this way, the employees of the Clearinghouse will know beforehand that anyone calling on such line is calling regarding the Clearinghouse and react to the call accordingly. The Clearinghouse would thus be operating 24 hours a day.

8. Further, the Clearinghouse should make available, if it is not already available or if the individual cannot supply it himself, transportation for these four or five individuals. This is to allow only the minimum of time necessary to get from the office or home to the cite of the incident if necessary. Time could very possibly be of the essence in any given case. An outbreak of civil unrest may be in the making when the Complaint Clearinghouse is contacted. For this reason transportation should be of no problem. Note. I do not feel that the employees of the Clearinghouse should act to stop any civil disturbances should they occur. If, however, they are present before the disturbance, they would be expected to act to prevent such an unrest. One thing to remember is that all people milling around during such a time should be talked to. These individuals' names, addresses, and phone numbers should be taken down and contacted in the near future. If witnesses ^{are} ~~are~~ needed in a given case, the people should be contacted and so informed -- no one should be expected to act as a witness unless that person's ~~consent~~ has been received.

9. Passes should be provided the employees of the Police Clearinghouse initially. There should be no problem if an unrest should develop and a curfew imposed, for these individuals to travel unbothered by the police or national guard. These individuals should make themselves well known to all organizations and individuals within the community so that they are recognized on sight. This makes for good public relations and common sense. These individuals should be encouraged to join any and all organizations which work in the interests of unity and the community.

10. The employees of the Complaint House will have to include some investigators. These investigators will have to be deeply concerned with the problems which exist and sincere in wanting to bring about eventual working relationships between the community and the police. They must also be involved and extremely qualified as investigators.

11. There will also have to be at least two (possibly more depending on how serious we are) attorneys on the premises who know their job. These attorneys must know the laws of D. C. and be familiar with the police policies, procedures, regulations, and actions. They should also be already known in the Black community; if not, they should make it a point to become known. The most important things are that they know their job and that the people be able to identify with them and have trust in them.

12. The Director should be an individual who is known to the Black community. He should be an individual who is Black in color as well as thinking. He should be extremely qualified. He must be someone who can communicate and who is interested in filling the gap between the police and the community.

Although sincerity of commitment is important we must recognize that salary must complement the abilities of the man we are seeking to locate. We must recognize that today, the market does call for extremely qualified Black men. And that others are also seeking these individuals. For this reason, the salary must be such that the Director is willing to dedicate himself to the commitment of bringing about a meaningful relationship between the police and community.

13. If the Clearinghouse finds that there is police brutality, perhaps through informal hearings and communications with the Police Department it can be resolved. If not, the Clearinghouse could pressure the Police Department through litigation, suit after suit. If this doesn't work, we could go one step further and present the facts openly to the public through the news media (couldn't you imagine CBS doing a documentary on "Justifiable Homicide or Police Brutality"). At any rate, there would be documentation of facts and statistics to substantiate the Black community's charge of widespread police brutality.

14. If the police brutality is documented the Clearinghouse could strongly suggest, along with the Black United Front, that three or four Police Precincts be put under the say-so of the community -- kind of a Model Precinct Plan, for a trial period.

15. A segment of the Clearinghouse could patrol certain areas where there are reportedly many cases of widespread police brutality, for a time being. They could do this regularly -- looking for cases of actual police brutality. This squad should have a camera with it at all times so that if they do encounter such brutality, it can be easily documented.

PLEASE NOTE. COPIES ALSO SENT TO THE FOLLOWING:

Cassell, Charles
Hailes, Ed
McKinnie, Lester
Rippy, Robert E.
Edgerton, Patricia F.
Barrows, Louise
Treadwell, Mary

Dated: July 14, 1968

BLACK PANTHER PARTY
UNITED FRONT
INTERNATIONAL MONITORING ASSOCIATION

NAME

LAST

DATE

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE AND ZIP CODE

TELEPHONE NUMBER

DATE OF BIRTH

DATE OF DEATH

DATE OF INTERVIEW

STATEMENT OF THE
BLACK PANTHER PARTY
UNITED FRONT
INTERNATIONAL MONITORING ASSOCIATION
AND
THE FRONT AND CONDUCT OF THE MONITORING
AND
MEMBERSHIP INTO THE BLACK UNITED FRONT.

Black Panther Party
200 Florida Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Christine Jones

A BLACK EDUCATIONAL MANIFESTO

from

The Black United Front

June 6, 1969

The Black United Front declares a state of Black educational crises in the District of Columbia that can only result in a permanent antagonism between Black and white--despite the threatening rhetoric and implied armed retaliation of the President.

Neither the President nor the Congress can solve this worsening black educational crisis. Only the people themselves can do it. And they are prepared to do so, in a sincere and determined effort to establish an educational system of supreme excellence that addresses itself to the needs of Black people.

In the first six months of its tenure in office, the Board of Education has demonstrated a confusion and administrative paralysis that stems only from the nefarious coalition between white racism and Black Uncle Tomism. As a result, Black children have been deprived of innovative educational experiments that will re-orient the thrust of their education to the relevancy of Black lives.

The Board of Higher Education, dominated by a plantation mentality and control by a honkie chairman, has treated the 95% Black student body of Federal City College with a contempt underserving of their seriousness of purpose.

Thus, the farcical spectacle of a debate over whether a college overwhelmingly Black in its student body should have a Black Studies Program speaks more eloquently than any words can say of the colonialist attitudes controlling Federal City College.

Neither secondary or higher education Black students will continue to sit passively by while a white racist minority in the District of Columbia attempts to dictate its values and impose its judgments on a Black majority. That prospect is prima facie, absurd and unacceptable.

The Black United Front, in recognition of the Black educational crisis in the District of Columbia--a 74% Black city with a 95% Black student constituency--calls for the following four steps to be taken immediately before the Fall of 1969 to avoid a total paralysis and disruption of the educational system in this city:

1. The appointment of a Black Superintendent of Schools. (This is critically urgent.)
2. The resignation of the present president and vice president of the Board of Education and the election of officers more responsive and more sensitive to the will of the people who spoke loud and clear in the November election.
3. The appointment of a Black president of Federal City College.
4. The appointment of a Black chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Board of Higher Education. The "Great White Father" image now dominating FCC must be totally and irrevocably erased.

Until these four steps are taken, the secondary and higher education systems of the District of Columbia will continue to flounder and meander "between two worlds--one dead, the other powerless to be born."

The Black United Front declares those four steps as the organizational irreducible minimum of what must be done immediately to set the educational system to the District on the track toward academic excellence. There are no other alternatives.

December 25, 1968

An Open Letter to the Board of Conveners of the Black United Front

Dear Conveners:

The Black United Front will hold its First Anniversary meeting at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 1969.

Many people in the community have queried us as to what the Front has done, where the Front is at present, and where it intends to go in the future. These queries have been made of us individually because the Front has not as yet developed the mechanism to disseminate information throughout our Black community. Therefore, much time is spent by us individually answering questions that could otherwise be answered collectively through mass communication.

Individuals have questioned the progress in the rebuilding of the City. Others wonder about the effectiveness of the Front's proposal on "Neighborhood Control of the Police in the Black community". Still others have raised questions concerning the "June 24 Trick Bag" and what went down on 14th Street. Administratively, people want to know why the Black United Front does not have an office to work from and ask why there is such a lack of consideration shown for us -- the secretaries of the Front. The Body is continuously asking why there are so few Board members coming to the monthly Front meetings.

Numerous other questions have been and are being asked. We, the secretaries, feel it is time for the members of the Black United Front to have the opportunity to ask the entire Board of Conveners any and all questions they have. We contend that each member of the Board of Conveners should feel enough responsibility to the Body of the Front -- and remember that they elected you to the Board because they had faith in you and believed you to have the necessary leadership qualities -- to show up at this Anniversary meeting prepared to respond to any questions asked.

Sincerely,

/s/

Elizabeth Foster and
Lulu R. Stroud,
Secretaries
Black United Front

lrs:EF

cc: Black United Front Members

B'U'F 24

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from

The Black United Front

June 6, 1969

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